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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

MARCH, 1986

RELEASE DATE:
April 25, 1986

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1986				REVISED FEBRUARY 1986				REVISED MARCH 1985			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,975.7	1,717.4	258.3	13.1	1,969.8	1,706.1	263.7	13.4	1,975.4	1,744.7	230.7	11.7
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	58.9	52.3	6.6	11.1	58.2	51.7	6.5	11.2	58.5	52.3	6.2	10.6
Baton Rouge 2/	258.4	228.6	29.8	11.5	259.1	227.4	31.7	12.2	257.5	232.8	24.7	9.6
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	76.7	65.2	11.5	15.0	77.4	66.0	11.4	14.7	79.8	70.1	9.7	12.1
Lafayette 4/	112.6	99.6	13.0	11.5	111.8	99.7	12.1	10.8	109.7	99.8	9.9	9.0
Lake Charles 5/	74.0	62.6	11.4	15.4	73.8	62.4	11.4	15.5	76.5	64.1	12.4	16.2
Monroe 6/	68.8	61.3	7.5	10.9	67.7	59.8	7.9	11.6	67.2	60.7	6.5	9.7
New Orleans 7/	593.0	528.0	65.0	11.0	593.5	526.6	66.9	11.3	609.6	542.5	67.1	11.0
Shreveport 8/	167.6	146.3	[illegible]	[illegible]	166.9	145.1	21.8	13.1	166.7	152.4	14.3	8.6

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Louisiana's total nonagricultural employment during March was estimated at 1,569,600, a decrease of 1,100 from the previous month and a decrease of 23,500 from the comparable period a year ago. Nonmanufacturing employment fell due to cutbacks in the mining industry. Manufacturing employment was lower in the durable and nondurable goods segments.

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During March, total employment in the durable goods segments of manufacturing decreased by 200. Employment in the lumber and wood products industry was down due to less business. Lower production was primarily responsible for the payroll cuts in the primary metal industries. Decreases in employment in certain miscellaneous manufacturing industries accounted for the decrease in other durable goods.

Estimated nondurable goods employment was 300 below February's figure of 92,900. Layoffs in the industrial organic chemicals segments of nondurable goods was primarily responsible for this decrease. Food and kindred products and apparel and other textiles products also displayed slight declines.

Employment for Louisiana's nonmanufacturing industries for March was estimated at 1,401,500, a decrease of 600 from last months level. Decreased activity in the oil and gas extraction segment of mining was responsible for lower employment in total mining. Construction payrolls were up for March. Transportation and public utilities employment was higher due primarily to increased activity at the state's ports. Both the durable and nondurable goods segments of wholesale trade experienced a decrease for March. However, retail trade exhibited an increase due to more business for food stores, auto dealers and service stations and eating and drinking places. Finance, insurance and real estate employment remained steady for March. Services employment dropped by 100, with business services showing a considerable decrease for March. Estimated government employment in March was up as a result of increased state education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 118,600 production workers in manufacturing increased from $432.64 in February to $434.43 in March, an increase of $1.79, and an increase of $0.55 above March of last year. Average hourly earnings were six cents below the February figure, but $0.19 above the comparable year ago figure. Weekly hours averaged 41.1 during March, an increase of 0.4 hours from last month's figure.

Louisiana's estimated total unemployment stood at 258,300 for March, a decrease of 5,400 from February's level of 263,700 and 27,600 higher than March a year ago. The unemployment rate for March was 13.1 percent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points below last month's revised rate of 13.4 percent and 1.4 percentage points above the year ago figure. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 7.5 percent compared to 7.8 percent in February and 7.5 percent for March a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force increased from 1,969,800 in February to 1,975,700 in March, a gain of 5,900 and 300 higher than the year ago figure. Total employment moved from 1,706,100 last month to 1,717,400 for the current month, an increase of 11,300 over February and 27,300 higher than March 1985.

Louisiana's unemployment rate will probably remain close to the current level for the next month. Nonmanufacturing segments such as construction should experience employment increases and mining employment may fall during the next month. Manufacturing employment in Louisiana could edge up slightly.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change from February 1986	Net Change from March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,569.6	1,570.7	1,593.1	- 1.1	-23.5
MINING	71.1	76.6	82.5	- 5.5	-11.4
Oil and Gas Extraction	67.5	73.0	79.7	- 5.5	-12.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.6	3.6	2.8	0	+ 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	99.1	95.4	105.1	+ 3.7	- 6.0
MANUFACTURING	168.1	168.6	179.9	- 0.5	-11.8
Durable Goods	75.5	75.7	84.6	- 0.2	- 9.1
Lumber and Wood Products	12.7	12.8	13.2	- 0.1	- 0.5
Furniture and Fixtures	0.5	0.5	0.7	0	- 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6.8	6.7	7.6	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Primary Metal Industries	3.2	3.3	3.7	- 0.1	- 0.5
Fabricated Metal Products	12.9	12.9	13.2	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.5	9.5	10.3	0	- 0.8
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.5	7.5	11.3	0	- 3.8
Transportation Equipment	20.0	20.0	22.1	0	- 2.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.4	2.5	2.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	92.6	92.9	95.3	- 0.3	- 2.7
Food & Kindred Products	20.0	20.1	19.4	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.5	8.6	8.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
Paper & Allied Products	11.4	11.4	11.4	0	0
Printing & Publishing	10.1	10.1	10.4	0	- 0.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	26.6	26.8	28.6	- 0.2	- 2.0
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.0	12.0	12.8	0	- 0.8
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.9	0	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.0	3.9	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	111.5	110.8	114.8	+ 0.7	- 3.3
Railroad Transportation	5.8	5.8	6.4	0	- 0.6
Transportation, ex. Railroads	64.6	64.0	66.0	+ 0.6	- 1.4
Water Transportation	29.8	29.1	29.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.1
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	41.1	41.0	42.4	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	19.5	19.5	20.9	0	- 1.4
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	21.6	21.5	21.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	383.9	383.4	382.8	+ 0.5	+ 1.1
Wholesale Trade	89.8	90.2	93.5	- 0.4	- 3.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	51.3	51.6	55.3	- 0.3	- 4.0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	38.5	38.6	38.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	294.1	293.2	289.3	+ 0.9	+ 4.8
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.6	58.5	58.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food Stores	58.2	57.9	53.7	+ 0.3	+ 4.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.5	32.3	32.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	90.4	89.6	89.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.6
Other Retail Trade	54.4	54.9	54.8	- 0.5	- 0.4

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change from February 1986	Net Change from March 1985
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	85.2	85.2	84.4	0	+ 0.8
Banking	27.6	27.5	27.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICES	321.6	321.7	316.9	- 0.1	+ 4.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	23.6	24.0	24.6	- 0.4	- 1.0
Personal Services	15.9	15.8	15.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Business Services	56.7	57.4	57.3	- 0.7	- 0.6
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	10.5	10.5	10.1	0	+ 0.4
Miscellaneous Repair Services	7.2	7.2	7.4	0	- 0.2
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.9	8.9	8.7	0	+ 0.2
Health Services	91.4	91.3	90.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Legal Services	13.5	13.6	13.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Educational Services	26.5	26.1	23.1	+ 0.4	+ 3.4
Social Services	18.3	18.0	18.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	25.5	25.4	25.9	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Miscellaneous Services	17.4	17.4	17.4	0	0
GOVERNMENT	329.1	329.0	326.7	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
Federal	35.5	35.6	34.6	- 0.1	+ 0.9
State and Local	293.6	293.4	292.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
State	108.2	107.2	106.1	+ 1.0	+ 2.1
Local	185.4	186.2	186.0	- 0.8	- 0.6

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$434.43	$432.64	$433.88	41.1	40.7	41.3	$10.57	$10.63	$10.38
Durable Goods	379.29	368.94	397.57	39.8	39.0	41.5	9.53	9.46	9.58
Lumber & Wood Products	308.11	299.14	293.31	39.1	38.4	38.9	7.88	7.79	7.54
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	386.78	372.79	375.01	40.8	39.2	41.9	9.48	9.51	8.95
Fabricated Metal Products	370.67	356.74	411.74	39.1	38.4	42.8	9.48	9.29	9.62
Machinery, ex. Electrical	377.15	376.75	443.70	39.7	39.7	43.5	9.50	9.49	10.20
Electric & Electronic Equip.	460.40	460.00	423.96	40.6	40.6	40.3	11.34	11.33	10.52
Transportation Equipment	432.55	409.45	444.03	40.2	38.7	41.0	10.76	10.58	10.83
Nondurable Goods	485.18	491.95	472.64	42.3	42.3	42.2	11.47	11.63	11.20
Food & Kindred Products	306.50	300.67	302.64	38.7	38.4	38.8	7.92	7.83	7.80
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	213.33	210.55	222.56	38.3	37.8	40.1	5.57	5.57	5.55
Paper & Allied Products	600.29	592.28	546.05	44.4	44.2	43.2	13.52	13.40	12.64
Printing & Publishing	399.99	398.80	363.38	39.8	39.8	39.2	10.05	10.02	9.27
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	644.98	662.45	637.71	43.2	43.1	43.5	14.93	15.37	14.66
Petroleum & Coal Products	696.48	727.65	704.22	48.4	49.5	48.5	14.39	14.70	14.52
Petroleum Refining	714.29	748.33	735.57	49.5	50.7	49.4	14.43	14.76	14.89
MINING	530.15	529.67	536.28	46.1	46.3	47.5	11.50	11.44	11.29
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	522.08	519.57	486.68	41.6	41.4	39.6	12.55	12.55	12.29
BANKING	261.14	257.84	247.21	40.3	40.1	37.8	6.48	6.43	6.54

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 118,600 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 96,300 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 03 86				REVISED 02 86			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	24,325	20,425	3,900	16.0	23,525	20,025	3,500	14.9
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	10,125	8,450	1,675	16.5	10,075	8,350	1,725	17.2
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	8,525	6,525	2,000	23.5	8,750	6,450	2,300	26.4
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	17,350	13,775	3,575	20.7	16,850	13,225	3,625	21.5
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,400	11,550	1,850	13.8	13,325	11,425	1,900	14.3
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,725	5,775	950	14.1	6,625	5,650	975	14.9
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,750	4,075	675	14.1	4,700	4,000	700	14.9
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,975	4,425	550	11.2	5,025	4,450	575	11.4
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	5,150	3,800	1,350	26.2	5,000	3,625	1,375	27.3
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,700	6,850	850	11.1	7,575	6,775	800	10.5
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,500	8,300	2,200	21.0	10,625	8,225	2,400	22.5
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	14,575	12,325	2,250	15.4	14,525	12,275	2,250	15.6
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,850	3,675	1,175	24.2	4,850	3,575	1,275	26.3
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,275	7,075	1,200	14.4	8,100	6,850	1,250	15.4
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,700	12,050	2,650	18.0	14,625	12,075	2,550	17.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,900	7,075	1,825	20.5	8,825	6,900	1,925	21.8
COLFAX (GRANT)	7,200	6,125	1,075	15.0	7,175	6,075	1,100	15.4
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	30,125	24,900	5,225	17.4	29,350	24,450	4,900	16.7
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	12,400	10,150	2,250	18.0	12,525	10,150	2,375	19.0
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,025	6,250	775	11.0	6,950	6,200	750	10.9
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,125	10,975	2,150	16.5	12,800	10,800	2,000	15.7
JENA (LASALLE)	7,400	6,525	875	11.7	7,300	6,450	850	11.5
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,475	17,375	1,100	6.0	18,325	17,100	1,225	6.7
TALLULAH (MADISON)	6,700	5,400	1,300	19.4	6,775	5,375	1,400	20.6
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	13,575	10,975	2,600	19.2	13,650	10,775	2,875	21.0
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,300	15,175	2,125	12.3	17,275	14,925	2,350	13.7
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	10,600	9,400	1,200	11.4	10,550	9,350	1,200	11.4
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	8,450	6,650	1,800	21.4	8,575	6,575	2,000	23.3
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,475	3,875	600	13.6	4,425	3,825	600	13.4
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,775	7,200	1,575	18.0	8,675	7,025	1,650	19.1
MANY (SABINE)	10,225	8,750	1,475	14.4	10,150	8,675	1,475	14.6
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	3,475	3,000	475	13.6	3,425	2,925	500	14.5
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,800	7,225	1,575	17.9	9,000	7,225	1,775	19.7
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	36,200	29,050	7,150	19.8	35,650	28,675	6,975	19.6
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	31,900	25,650	6,250	19.6	31,725	25,675	6,050	19.0
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	38,775	32,900	5,875	15.1	38,875	32,625	6,250	16.1
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,400	2,925	475	13.7	3,375	2,825	550	16.4
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,475	7,225	1,250	14.8	8,475	7,150	1,325	15.5
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	22,725	18,425	4,300	18.9	22,400	18,350	4,050	18.1
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	17,925	16,250	1,675	9.4	18,000	16,075	1,925	10.7
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,800	15,175	2,625	14.8	17,550	14,875	2,675	15.2
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	20,150	17,250	2,900	14.4	20,050	17,025	3,025	15.1
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	5,375	3,775	1,600	29.8	5,375	3,650	1,725	32.1
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,375	3,775	600	13.7	4,400	3,750	650	14.7
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,650	5,000	650	11.6	5,600	4,950	650	11.7

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.3	45.2	44.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.7	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.7	2.6	2.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.0	11.1	10.8	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Retail Trade	8.8	8.9	8.6	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.5	2.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	10.2	10.1	9.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Health Services	4.2	4.1	4.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	13.1	13.1	12.9	0	+ 0.2
Federal	2.6	2.6	2.5	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.5	10.5	10.4	0	+ 0.1
State	5.4	5.4	5.4	0	0
Local	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria area was estimated at 45,300 during March. This estimate was 100 more than February and 600 more than March of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during March totaled 3,400. This estimate remained unchanged from the previous month and 100 less than March of last year. The decrease since last March was in other durable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 41,900 during March. This was an increase of 100 over February and 700 more than last March. Changes since last month were slight, with gains in construction and services, and a slight decline in the number of eating and drinking employees. Compared to March of last year, employment gains were in each major segment except finance, insurance and real estate and construction.

During the next thirty days as weather conditions improve, outdoor related employment should increase with a corresponding decline in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	213.6	212.3	216.8	+ 1.3	- 3.2
MANUFACTURING	20.2	20.2	21.1	0	- 0.9
Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.9	1.8	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	16.0	15.9	16.8	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.8	1.9	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	11.5	11.5	12.4	0	- 0.9
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	20.7	20.3	21.9	+ 0.4	- 1.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.3	10.0	10.4	+ 0.3	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	50.9	50.5	52.7	+ 0.4	- 1.8
Wholesale Trade	10.9	10.9	11.6	0	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.7	7.7	8.1	0	- 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.5	0	- 0.3
Retail Trade	40.0	39.6	41.1	+ 0.4	- 1.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.1	14.1	13.6	0	+ 0.5
Banking	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
SERVICES	41.9	41.4	40.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	54.2	54.5	55.3	- 0.3	- 1.1
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.0	52.3	53.2	- 0.3	- 1.2
State	31.5	31.8	31.7	- 0.3	- 0.2
Local	20.5	20.5	21.5	0	- 1.0

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$513.24	$525.68	$566.04	42.0	42.6	44.5	$12.22	$12.34	$12.72
Petro-Chemicals	666.26	692.13	710.06	46.3	47.7	46.5	14.39	14.51	15.27

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 213,600 during March was up 1,300 from February's revised estimate. Manufacturing had no change and nonmanufacturing was up 1,300.

Employment in manufacturing at 20,200 had no change during the current period. Durable goods employment was down 100 due to less business in blast furnaces, steel works and rolling and finishing mills and in miscellaneous metal products. Nondurable goods employment was up due to a seasonal increase in sugar and confectionery products and more business in dairy products.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing industries at 193,400 was up 1,300 during March. Mining had no change. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings and in miscellaneous special trades contractors. Transportation and public utilities employment was up due to seasonal increases in services incidental to water transportation, in arrangement of transportation, and more business in radio and television broadcasting. Wholesale trade had no change. Retail trade was up due to a seasonal increase in shoe stores and more business in lumber and other building materials dealers and in eating and drinking places. Finance, insurance and real estate had no change. Services employment was up due to more business in hotels, motels, and tourist courts, in personnel supply services, and in engineering, architectural, and surveying services. Government was down due to budget related reductions in state government.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,300 production workers in all manufacturing was $513.24, down $12.44 from February's revised average. Average weekly hours were down 0.6 hours and average hourly earnings were down $0.12 per hour. Petro-chemicals average weekly earnings were $666.26, down $25.87 during the current month. Average weekly hours were down 1.4 hours and average hourly earnings were down $0.12 per hour. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 228,600 during March, up 1,200 over February's revised estimate, and down 4,200 from March of last year. Unemployment at 29,800 was down 1,900 during the current period. March's unemployment rate was 11.5 percent, down from February's revised 12.2 percent. The statewide unemployment rate was 13.1 percent for March. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 258,400 during the current period.

Employment is expected to improve some during the coming month with small drops in unemployment.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,831 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 278 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for February, 1986 for all urban consumers was 327.5 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 323.2 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.1	58.8	62.6	- 0.7	- 4.5
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.4	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.7
Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	3.5	0	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.4	1.5	- 0.1	- 0.2
MINING	7.4	7.5	8.8	- 0.1	- 1.4
CONSTRUCTION	2.3	2.2	2.9	+ 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.8	7.1	7.7	- 0.3	- 0.9
Water Transportation	4.4	4.7	5.0	- 0.3	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.3	14.6	15.4	- 0.3	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.5	3.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.0	11.1	12.0	- 0.1	- 1.0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.3	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.6	2.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	9.0	9.1	8.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	11.3	11.3	11.3	0	0
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	10.8	10.8	10.8	0	0
State	3.1	3.1	3.1	0	0
Local	7.7	7.7	7.7	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in March decreased to 58,100, down 700 from February. The decrease was spread through most industry divisions. Since March of 1986, total nonagricultural employment has shown a drop of more than 7.0 percent, or 4,500 workers. Especially harmful was a loss of 1,400 in mining. Sizable decreases were also shown by retail trade, transportation, manufacturing, and construction.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,300 in March, down 100 from last month. Nondurable goods decreased due to seasonal declines in the food and kindred segment. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 700.

Mining continued the downtrend of the past year. Water transportation decreased, adversely affected by the problems of mining. Both wholesale and retail trade lost workers. Services tapered off slightly. More favorably, construction showed a small increase as weather conditions improved. Finance, insurance and real estate edged up. Government held steady.

Estimated unemployment in March edged up to 11,500, a level 100 above February. The problems of employment were mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 15.0 percent of the labor force compared to 14.7 percent in February and 12.1 percent in March of last year. The March rate was somewhat higher than the state rate of 13.1 percent, and much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.5 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totaled 3,311.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show changes of a seasonal nature along with those of a longer range nature. Much will depend on developments in the oil and gas industry. It is hoped that some increase is forthcoming. Construction will benefit from better weather for outside activity. Unemployment will probably move up with the early summer increase in the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	97.8	98.5	99.1	- 0.7	- 1.3
MANUFACTURING	6.0	5.9	6.3	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.2	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	4.0	3.9	4.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.6	1.5	1.6	+ 0.1	0
MINING	16.9	17.0	17.6	- 0.1	- 0.7
CONSTRUCTION	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.2	7.3	7.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.4	25.9	25.7	- 0.5	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	6.4	6.4	6.5	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.3	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Retail Trade	19.0	19.5	19.2	- 0.5	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.6	3.7	3.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Food Stores	3.0	3.1	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Other Retail Trade	10.5	10.8	10.9	- 0.3	- 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.8	3.8	4.0	0	- 0.2
Banking	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
SERVICES	19.3	19.6	19.5	- 0.3	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	14.1	13.9	13.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Federal	1.0	0.9	0.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	13.1	13.0	12.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	5.5	5.4	5.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	7.6	7.6	7.4	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette was estimated at 97,800 for March, a decrease of 700 from February's level and 1,300 below the March a year ago figure. A decrease in Lafayette's nonmanufacturing payrolls was responsible for the downturn.

The largest decrease in nonmanufacturing was in the retail trade segment. There was a decrease of 500 from the previous month and 300 below the same period of time a year ago.

Services showed a decrease of 300 from February and a 200 decrease from March of 1985.

Other areas of the economy showed slight fluctuations from previous times.

The price of oil continues to be at an all time low since 1977. Industry analysts see little hope for a revival in the near future.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.8	57.8	58.4	0	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	8.8	8.9	9.3	- 0.1	- 0.5
Durable Goods	0.7	0.8	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.1	8.1	8.5	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.4	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.3	7.3	7.6	0	- 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	2.0	2.2	2.4	- 0.2	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.8	14.3	14.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.0	3.1	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.8	11.3	11.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.4	1.3	1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	3.6	3.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.7	2.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.8	11.0	10.8	- 0.2	0
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.7	0.6	- 0.1	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	11.1	11.0	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.3	10.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
State	3.8	3.7	3.8	+ 0.1	0
Local	6.6	6.6	6.3	0	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment showed no difference from the previous month and was 600 below March of 1985.

Trade showed an increase of 500 from the previous month and 400 above March of 1985.

The other segments of the economy remained very stable showing little or no change.

Lake Charles continues to move along with a high unemployment rate. There are no expectations at the present time for this rate to improve.

MONROE AREA

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	56.2	54.8	55.8	+ 1.4	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	7.6	7.6	7.3	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.1	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.6	3.4	0	+ 0.2
MINING	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	4.1	3.6	3.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.7	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.9	15.9	15.3	0	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
Retail Trade	11.7	11.7	11.1	0	+ 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.6	3.6	2.9	0	+ 0.7
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.9	2.9	3.3	0	- 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.4	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	11.2	11.2	10.9	0	+ 0.3
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.5	0	+ 0.2
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.5	4.5	4.5	0	0
GOVERNMENT	9.8	8.9	11.2	+ 0.9	- 1.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.2	8.3	10.6	+ 0.9	- 1.4
State	4.8	3.9	4.9	+ 0.9	- 0.1
Local	4.4	4.4	5.7	0	- 1.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 56,200, was 1,400 above the February estimate of 54,800. The gain was in nonmanufacturing with the largest gain being in Government.

Manufacturing was unchanged for the month; however, there was a gain of 300 from the same period one year ago.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 48,600, was up 1,400 from the February estimate. The largest gain, 900, was experienced by government and reflected the students being placed for the spring semester at local educational facilities. Construction, up 500 for the month, reflected the rush to complete several projects and the beginning of other projects as the weather continued to be favorable to outside work. Finance, insurance and real estate was up 100, to an estimated 4,500. The only loss was minimal in transportation and public utilities. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

Employment is expected to show a slow increase as unemployment remains high over the next 60 days.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	522.3	522.8	534.9	- 0.5	-12.6
MANUFACTURING	42.9	43.1	46.1	- 0.2	- 3.2
Durable Goods	21.3	21.3	24.0	0	- 2.7
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.8	1.8	2.4	0	- 0.6
Fabricated Metal Products	2.5	2.5	3.0	0	- 0.5
Machinery	2.8	2.8	3.1	0	- 0.3
Transportation Equipment	12.0	12.0	13.2	0	- 1.2
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.4	7.4	8.6	0	- 1.2
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	21.6	21.8	22.1	- 0.2	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	6.3	6.2	6.3	+ 0.1	0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.6	1.8	1.7	- 0.2	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.2	4.3	4.5	- 0.1	- 0.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	18.8	18.8	19.6	0	- 0.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	18.3	18.3	19.1	0	- 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	25.4	25.3	28.1	+ 0.1	- 2.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	44.7	44.7	45.1	0	- 0.4
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	2.1	0	- 0.2
Water Transportation	14.1	13.9	13.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	140.3	140.3	139.6	0	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	34.1	34.3	36.0	- 0.2	- 1.9
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	20.2	20.3	22.0	- 0.1	- 1.8
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.9	14.0	14.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	106.2	106.0	103.6	+ 0.2	+ 2.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	32.5	32.5	33.4	0	- 0.9
Banking	7.5	7.4	7.6	+ 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICES	132.0	132.3	133.5	- 0.3	- 1.5
GOVERNMENT	85.7	85.8	89.5	- 0.1	- 3.8
Federal	15.9	16.0	14.9	- 0.1	+ 1.0
State and Local	69.8	69.8	74.6	0	- 4.8
State	22.0	21.9	22.3	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Local	47.8	47.9	52.3	- 0.1	- 4.5

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$422.68	$426.70	$430.35	39.8	39.4	41.3	$10.62	$10.83	$10.42
Durable Goods	374.90	371.42	415.33	38.1	37.9	41.7	9.84	9.80	9.96
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	367.95	380.21	418.58	37.7	38.6	42.8	9.76	9.85	9.78
Fabricated Metal Products	275.32	284.60	429.75	30.9	33.8	45.0	8.91	8.42	9.55
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	392.63	391.00	399.68	39.5	39.1	39.3	9.94	10.00	10.17
Nondurable Goods	469.06	481.80	447.17	41.4	40.9	40.8	11.33	11.78	10.96
Food & Kindred Products	340.00	332.98	306.53	40.0	38.9	38.9	8.50	8.56	7.88
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	143.51	129.12	142.16	24.2	22.3	24.3	5.93	5.79	5.85
Paper & Allied Products	461.62	436.24	409.70	48.9	45.3	47.2	9.44	9.63	8.68
Printing & Publishing	409.09	418.79	367.84	43.8	44.6	41.8	9.34	9.39	8.80
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	647.36	693.79	653.62	42.9	42.8	43.2	15.09	16.21	15.13

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 42,900 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in March decreased to 522,300, down 500 from February. Changes were minor and scattered through both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. Since March 1985, total nonagricultural employment lost 12,600 workers, with every industry division but trade showing a decrease.

Manufacturing employment totaled 42,900 in March, down 200 from the previous month. A small layoff in apparel and chemicals was minimized by a minor seasonal increase in foods. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing has lost 3,200 employees.

Services decreased largely in the hotel-motel industry, business services, and in amusement services. Government eased down in the federal and local sectors. Wholesale trade tapered off in both durable goods and nondurable goods. However, these decreases were offset by a gain in retail trade, mostly in employment by building materials dealers, automotive dealers and service stations, and eating and drinking places. Construction pushed up as the weather became more favorable for outside activity. Transportation and public utilities employment showed no overall change as a gain in water transportation was offset by decreases in other segments of transportation. In finance, an increase in banking was balanced by a decrease in employment by other credit agencies. Mining held steady.

Area production workers earned an average $422.82 per week in March, down $4.02 from last month's average. The increase of 24 minutes in average hours was offset by a decrease of $0.21 in average hourly earnings. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings went down $7.67.

Estimated unemployment in March moved down to 65,000, a level 1,900 below February. Seasonal factors were mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 11.0 percent of the labor force compared to 11.3 percent in February and 11.0 percent in March of last year. The March rate was lower than the state rate of 13.1 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.5 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 15,916. Approximately 43.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; about 32.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show some overall gain. Much will depend on developments in the oil and gas industry and the local port. Construction will be favored by better weather conditions. Less favorably, services will reflect the close of the Fair Grounds racing season. Unemployment will probably move up with the early summer increase in the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1986*	February 1986**	March 1985**	Net Change From February 1986	Net Change From March 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	135.8	135.4	141.7	+ 0.4	- 5.9
MANUFACTURING	18.9	19.0	23.3	- 0.1	- 4.4
Durable Goods	14.0	14.1	18.6	- 0.1	- 4.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Metals and Machinery	8.3	8.3	12.7	0	- 4.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.1	2.1	2.4	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.2	6.2	10.3	0	- 4.1
Other Durable Goods	5.0	5.1	5.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	4.9	4.9	4.7	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.5	0	+ 0.3
MINING	4.2	4.5	4.9	- 0.3	- 0.7
CONSTRUCTION	7.7	7.4	8.2	+ 0.3	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.2	8.2	8.9	0	- 0.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.3	32.5	33.4	- 0.2	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	8.5	8.6	8.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
Retail Trade	23.8	23.9	24.6	- 0.1	- 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	8.0	8.0	7.7	0	+ 0.3
SERVICES	29.6	29.0	29.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	26.9	26.8	25.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Federal	4.4	4.4	4.3	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	22.5	22.4	21.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.0
State	8.0	7.8	6.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Local	14.5	14.6	14.7	- 0.1	- 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**	March '86*	February '86**	March '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$405.28	$378.51	$436.24	38.2	37.0	41.0	$10.62	$10.23	$10.64
Lumber and Wood Products	265.21	235.60	223.11	41.7	40.0	39.7	6.36	5.89	5.62
Metals and Machinery	402.09	396.24	423.11	39.0	39.0	41.4	10.31	10.16	10.22
Food and Kindred Products	299.95	309.17	297.02	40.1	40.1	41.6	7.48	7.71	7.14
Printing and Publishing	290.78	273.83	267.25	31.2	29.7	30.3	9.32	9.22	8.82
Petroleum and Coal Products	625.00	538.87	473.49	48.6	42.7	40.4	12.86	12.62	11.72

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The nonagricultural wage and salary employment total increased slightly from the revised February estimate of 135,400 to 135,800 for March. This total is 5,900 less than March, 1985. Manufacturing employment is nearly unchanged at 18,900, down 100 from the previous month, but 4,400 less than March, 1985. An employment gain of 500 in nonmanufacturing has offset the loss in manufacturing.

The total manufacturing employment estimate of 18,900 reflects a small decline in the production of durable goods in miscellaneous manufacturing industries. All other segments of manufacturing are unchanged from February to March.

Nonmanufacturing employment shows a 500 gain from 116,400 in February to 116,900 in March. The employment losses that occurred in mining and trade were more than offset by increases in services, construction and government. The most significant increase was in services with gains in educational, business, medical and social services. Additional employment gains occurred in hotels-motels, auto and miscellaneous repair and personal services.

This labor area has 13,500 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of $405.28, up from the revised February earnings of $378.51. Average weekly hours increased from 37.0 to 38.2, while the average hourly earnings moved up from $10.23 to $10.62 during the February to March period.

The civilian labor force for the Shreveport area increased to 167,600, with 146,300 employed and 21,300 unemployed. The unemployment rate dropped to 12.7 percent, down from 13.1 in February.

Economic conditions in this area are expected to show slight improvements. Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment will likely show small gains during the next two months in nonmanufacturing industries. This increase is expected primarily in construction and services segments. Total unemployment will remain near the 21,000 level.